

Seattle Human Rights Commission

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, October 3rd, 2013, 6:00–8:00 p.m.

City Hall - Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present:

Alex Becker, Ethel Brach, Nika Dahlbacka, Alejandra Gonza, Anita Khandelwal, Catherine Moore, Andrea Negrete, Martin Penner,

Commissioners Absent:

Katherine Beckett, Marsha Mavunkel, Greg Ramirez, Christina Ygona.

SOCR Staff Present:

Julie Nelson, Ronald Ramp

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 6:03

Guest Speaker

Washington Community Action Network

Rachael DeCruz

Rachael lead a discussion around racial equity in Washington. Rachel discussed a report on the Washington Legislature as it related to racial justice. It is the 5th year for the report. The reports grades legislators on their voting track record on issues impacting people of color in Washington. Washington Community Action Network has a proactive equity agenda. Rachael said grades for legislators are generally poor. Only 7 received an A. The annual report can be download from their website. Rachael talked about death penalty abolishment, and the racial inequities in Washington. They are also part of the RSJI round table working with Brenda at SOCR. Washington Community Action Network pulls a lot of groups into one agenda. An example is the legislative summit. The 2014 proactive list is coming soon. The SHRC can help by adding the commission as a sponsor.

Motion to co-sponsor the “Legislative Summit on Racial equity” on December 3rd 2013; PASSED. The commission will add their logo to event materials. Rachael will be in touch with Ron on getting the SHRC logo. Rachael discussed redress with polarized voting in Eastern Washington.

SOCR report:

Julie Nelson

Julie Nelson discussed the 2014 budget. Julie talked about the Gender Equity Initiative, and task force. The Gender Equity Task Force has three committees. 1. Job classification review. 2. Family Friendly; paid parenting leave, job flexibility, working from home. 3. Leadership; not across board problem, many women director and in management. Although, big difference by department.

Julie discussed the audit recently completed by the City Auditor. Julie and Mike Chin are working on SOCR's response. Some recommendations would require an ordinance change. The Commission will submit a response to the audit. Action item; Ron add Alejandra Gonza to the Gender Equity list serve.

Smarter Cities Challenge:

Nika

The commission discussed the Smarter Cities Challenge. This is a philanthropy program from IBM. The program has helped other cities in the U.S., and around the world, on a variety of issues and problems. A lot of human rights focus; with good outcomes. It is usually a problem with no known solution. SPD was mentioned as a candidate for this. The deadline is 11/8/13. Awardees get experts for a 3 week period. It is for principally consulting services at no cost. The experts have experience in related matters.

I was mentioned this may be a good fit for the vendor code of conduct. Another idea was for food issues. The Mayor would need to attend a kickoff, midpoint, and ending events. Nika is interested in drafting something. It is good to select a problem that can be a showcase; something that be replicated in other cities. Julie will see if anything is already in motion with the city on this, and communicate via e-mail.

The Seattle Human Services Coalition budget letter was discussed. It was noted that Human Services works with homelessness, early education, domestic violence, and other important services in the city. Part of an overall budget letter supporting Human Services budget. **Move to add endorsement; Passed.**

The commission discussed the idea of adding an award to the Human Rights Day/50th Anniversary Celebration. The current awards are for an organization, individual, and youth. The new award would be for a business in Seattle. The business should perform business in Seattle in a way that promotes or models Human Rights. The commission discussed various criteria for the award. Some commissioners expressed concern that the award is a reaction to the audit. It was mentioned some press around it would be helpful for a good response/attendance. Chris can help with press and possibly The Stranger. **Motion to add new business award to Seattle Human Rights Day; Passed.**

JJ&RA ICE Detainer Letter to John Clayton, Assistant Secretary, Juvenile Justice and Rehabilitation Administration about policy Recommendation. Currently the policy honors ICE detainers. The letter requests that detainers are no longer honored. It does not fall in line with values and goals in JRA. Options are limited by the detainer. The letter is asking for an interim directive that current holds are not honored. The dead line is the end of next week. Action item; Andrea will work on it.

Action item; contact Chris for business award.

Adjourned 8:15